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CAXTON'S OLD ENGLISH WORDS.

THE remark on p. 9 of the article on "References to the English Language in German Literature," published in the first number of MODERN PHILOLOGY, requires some modification. Leland, as well as the Cologne edition of Bede, is preceded by Caxton who, in chap. 50 of the first book of Trevisa's Higden, *De legibus legumque vocabulis*, gives the first old English words printed in England. The form in which these words appear is, of course, the Middle English of Trevisa's time in corrupted orthography, and so one might still be inclined to hesitate as to the honor of Caxton's precedence. The following is a transcript of the essential part of this chapter:

[Transcribed from copy in Bodleian Library, G. Selden, d. 7. Oxford University, July 21, 1903.]

¶ De Legibus legum & vocabulis. ¶ Capitulum 50

. I holde it wel don to wryte here and² expowne many ter- | mes of these lawes · Myndebruche · hurtyng of honour and wor- | ship · In frenffhe blefchur dhonour · Burchbruch in frenffhe ble- | fchur de court on de cloys ⁊ Gritchbruch brekyng of pees · Myfken | nyng chaungyng of speche in court ⁊ Shewyng fettyng forth of | marchandyfe ⁊ In frenffhe displeir de marchandyfe · Hamfokne · or | hamfare a refe made in hows ⁊ Forftallyng ⁊ wronge or lete doun | in the kynges hye waye · Frythfoken fewrte in defence · Saka ⁊ for | fait Soka Sute of courte ⁊ and therof cometh foken ⁊ Theam fute | of bondmen · Fyghtingwyte · Amersement for fichtyng · Blode- | wyte · Mersement for fhedyng of blode. Flyt wite · amendes for the- | dyng of blode · leyr wyte · amendes for lyeng by a bondewoman ⁊ | Gulte wite amendes for trespas · Scot a gadryng to werke of bai | lyes ⁊ hydage tayllage for hydes of londes Danegheld tayllage | yeuen to the danes that was of euery bonata terre that is euery | Oxe londe thre pens ⁊ A weepentack and an honderd is al one |

¶ For the contre of C townes were woonte to gyne vp wepen in | the comyng of a lord² · Leftage cuftome y chalengyd² in chepyn- | gys and fayres ftallage cuftome for ftondyng in ftretes in feyre tyme.

EWALD FLÜGEL.

STANFORD UNIVERSITY,
California.